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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,039	11/24/2003	Hideyuki Wada	59796 (47793)	6491

21874 7590 11/29/2006

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EXAMINER
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BLOUIN, MARK S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/722,039

Applicant(s)

HIDEYUKI

Examiner

Mark Blouin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **Detailed Action**

### ***Drawings***

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1,2,6,13-15,18,20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (TDB), NB9003300.

4. Regarding Claim 1, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) a recording apparatus comprising at least two recording medium;a mainboard (3) including a control section for controlling read/write of data from/to the recording medium (1); an interface connector (5) provided at an edge of said mainboard for outputting and inputting data, which is written and read to/from the recording medium, to/from an exterior; and board side connectors provided on both sides of said mainboard at opposite edge of said mainboard from said interface connector, said board side

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connectors including mating face pointing opposite direction from said mainboard, wherein the two recording medium are provided on both sides (left and right) of said mainboard substantially parallel with said mainboard, and include interfaces of the recording medium at the end nearest to said board side connectors, and the recording apparatus further comprises drive connecting members (2) for connecting interfaces of the recording medium with said board side connectors.

5. Regarding Claim 2, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording apparatus, further comprising: an accommodation section (4) for accommodating a board unit and drive units, the board unit including said main board (3), said interface connector (5) and said board side connectors which are assembled in a unit, and the drive units (1) including the recording medium and said drive connecting members which are assembled in units; and guides (grooves shown in (4)) provided in said accommodation unit for respectively guiding the two recording medium in a direction substantially parallel with said mainboard.

6. Regarding Claim 3, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording, wherein the two drive units (1) are substantially the same as each other and provided on both sides of the board unit.

7. Regarding Claim 4, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording apparatus, wherein said guides (grooves in 4) are provided along paths of insertion and extraction of the drive units (1) into/out of said board side connectors and said drive connecting members.

8. Regarding Claim 5, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording apparatus, wherein a position of each of said guides is eccentric away from a midpoint of a total thickness of each of

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the drive units in the perpendicular direction to said mainboard, and said accommodation (4) section comprises an opening arranged so that a part of each of the drive units abuts on an edge of said accommodation section when it is inserted along with each of said guides with a reversed orientation.

9. Regarding Claim 6, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording apparatus, wherein the recording medium are assembled so that a motor of each of the recording medium (inside drive unit 1) is provided at a side of said mainboard.

10. Regarding Claim 7, the IBM TDB shows (Fig. 4) the recording apparatus, wherein the recording medium comprises a hard disk drive (1).

### ***Conclusion***

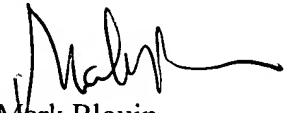
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Blouin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Blouin  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2627  
November 27, 2006